

# Triple J listeners shrug off calls to boycott Hottest 100

Broede Carmody  
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Triple J says it's received more Hottest 100 votes than this time last year, indicating people's call for a boycott has so far fallen on deaf ears.

Earlier this year, Triple J confirmed it was moving its Hottest 100 countdown away from January 26. ABC management approved the decision after an overwhelming number of Triple J listeners flagged their support.

Singer Dolores O'Riordan dies unexpectedly, Ed Sheeran gets sued again, Harvey Weinstein gets a real life slapping and neo-Nazis make it onto national news.

Triple J said the move would de-politicise the Hottest 100 and allow people to focus on celebrating Australian music. However, critics have accused the station of making a political statement – with some listeners even calling for a boycott.

On Friday morning, 2GB's Steve Price called Triple J's decision to change the date "commercial suicide". However, the national broadcaster had tallied around 1.5 million Hottest 100 votes as of Thursday.



*Triple J has already tallied 1.5 million votes for this year's Hottest 100 countdown. Photo: James Brickwood*

While the ABC processed a record-breaking 2.25 million votes last year, ABC sources said this year's vote was on track to match – or even exceed – last year's tally. This is because there tends to be a last-minute rush, with the majority of people casting their ballot in the final days of the campaign. Polls are due to close next week.

The figures come as commercial network Triple M conducts its own music countdown to be held on January 26. Indigenous rapper Briggs has called for people to vote for his anti-Australia Day anthem to send Triple M management a message.

However, commercial radio sources said the 'Ozzest 100' is unlikely to be as transparent as the ABC's annual music countdown.

"At the end of the day the music director, guided by the content director, is going to choose every single song and place it exactly where they want it to appear in the countdown," a former Hit Network employee said. "Commercial radio is not a democracy."

Conservative South Australian senator Cory Bernardi has also weighed in on the debate by launching his own Australia Day playlist. Multiple artists – and even Spotify itself – have distanced themselves from the political stunt.

"It would appear that the true meaning behind Down Under is lost on Cory Bernardi," former Men at Work vocalist Colin Hay wrote on Facebook. "When the lyrics were written some 40 years ago, I was worried about people like him, and movements he represents. Turns out I had a good reason to be."

Voting for Triple J's Hottest 100 remains open until 9am on Monday, January 22. This year's Hottest 100 will be held on Saturday, January 27.